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 VAH 101
 Mar 7

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 is this draft?
 See edit &
 comments*

Biography

Agnolo Bronzino who is also known as Agnolo di Cosimo was an artist of the Italian second wave mannerism in the mid-16th century. In all his life he lived in Florence and. In his work, he kept to the teachings of his teacher Jacob Consortium. He got so good in his work that he succeeded Pontormo and later became the court painter for the well-known Medici family. The exposure gave his work a lot of publicity; he was soon famous for his style of detached realism and bold colors (Leal, 2015).

He was born on 17 Nov 1503 in the town of Monticello, to a poor family. His father was a butcher, and on achieving 11, Bronzino started to go to school when he was 11, during this time Bronzino was a student of Raffaellino del Gabo who was a Florentine Renaissance painter. Bronzino was not getting enough practice with Gabo, and so at age 12, he took an apprenticeship job in Florence with Pontormo.

The relationship between Bronzino and Pontormo got so close that some believe that Pontormo adopted Bronzino while other say they had a homosexual affair. Bronzino stayed with Pontormo to his death. When nearing the end of his life Bronzino founded the Accademia dell'Arte Disegno with other prominent figures of his time, like his mentor Pontormo, Bronzino took a student under his wing like a son (Allori). He later died at 69 years in the Allori family house on Nov 23, 1572.

*These sentence or statement is needed:
 This paper will focus on an analysis
 of two paintings by Bronzino in the
 mannerist style. (define or explain
 "mannerist style")*

Subject matter*Bronzino's*

The Deposition of Christ is about the events that happened after the crucifixion and death. ~~It shows a picture of~~ *He depicts* Mary the Virgin cradling onto Jesus's body and John holding on to the body too. Mary Magdalene is also in the painting as a close friend and follower of Jesus. The figures represent angels carrying away the cross. Being that the painting was meant for a church the subject matter is fitting. This is because Christians believe that it is through crucifixion that they get the chance to go to heaven. The painting, therefore, represented the most important event to Christians ~~since~~.

Interpretation

The interpretation drawn from the painting is that the suffering of Jesus had finally come to an end. This is shown by the image of the angels carrying away the cross that represents the suffering that Jesus went through. Despite the general mood of the painting being of sorrow, Christian literature refers to this point as one to be celebrated. This is because the occurrence in the painting indicates Christians triumph over death. This is following Jesus offering his life to save men and his resurrection ~~that followed~~ *enter heaven after* showing that those who die believing in Christ will also ~~get to rise after death~~.

Venus, Cupid folly and time

The style of this painting is the allegory; this means that despite the first glance meaning, there is another hidden meaning. The painting was made of oil and wood, Bronzino was able to create such a complex painting with numerous possible meanings by drawing inspiration from various sources. One of these sources for inspiration was from old Greek stories of gods *and* their relationships. The other source was from the *social context* ~~state~~ of his surrounding at that time, ~~and the~~

^{attention to}
~~practices people engaged in~~. His keen workmanship and details allowed him to include details ^{symbol} like an apple and an arrow in Venus's hands to increase the possible number of meanings ~~from~~ ^M the painting. The many possible meanings ⁺ allowed him to pass on a moral message to a specific audience. This one has a lot of symbolism that allowed the author to pass a caution message to the intended audience. | ⁹⁰⁰⁰

In the painting, Agnolo Bronzino followed his approach of being detached and unemotional about the subject, and this worked well ~~for the painting~~. Like most of his other paintings Venus, Cupid ^{B T} and Time apply ^{nudes} ~~naked figures~~ to show the image of angels carrying away the crucifix. Being a mannerism ⁺ painter, Bronzino molded the bodies of his characters in his painting to the extent that they looked real. The complex sitting position of the naked lady in the painting and the contorted position of her lover is also another common characteristic of Bronzino's artwork (Leal, 2015). | ⁹⁰⁰⁰

Subject matter

The subject matter of this painting is often controversial; at first glance Venus is kissing Cupid holding an apple in her hand. This is often described as a symbol of beauty that is in most cases related to love. The position of the characters used in the painting is common in mannerism ⁺ painting. The older woman is often explained as being jealous due to her stern look. The one scattering flowers are explained to be Folly; the painting has involved a sense of deceit or contradiction with the inclusion of a figure with a beautiful face and the body of a reptile. The painter also added a boldly bearded man who is in most cases explained to be Cronos. ^{symbol of time} Opposite Cronos is Oblivion which seems to be in a disagreement with Cronos. For those who go with the

first glance meaning the different characters depict different scenarios of life. The painting shows how those in love could lose focus on all the other aspects of their life.

Interpretation

It is in the interpretation of this painting where the controversy arises, in one school of thought, the painting is shown as depicting an incestuous relationship between Venus and his mother (Leal, 2015). This is drawn from the sexual gesture Venus makes towards his mother. Another school of thought focuses on the angry man in the background who seems to be warning the two lovers of something. This together with the abnormally large limbs which are possibly from a result of long time syphilis point towards a dark meaning of disease or even death. This school of thought believes the painting to be a warning of the dangerous sexual practices of that era with a portrayal of the possible consequences. A closer look within this school of thought shows that most of the characters in the painting are suffering from syphilis.

Good analysis

annotate for
final paper

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Pictures 1



See below (detail)

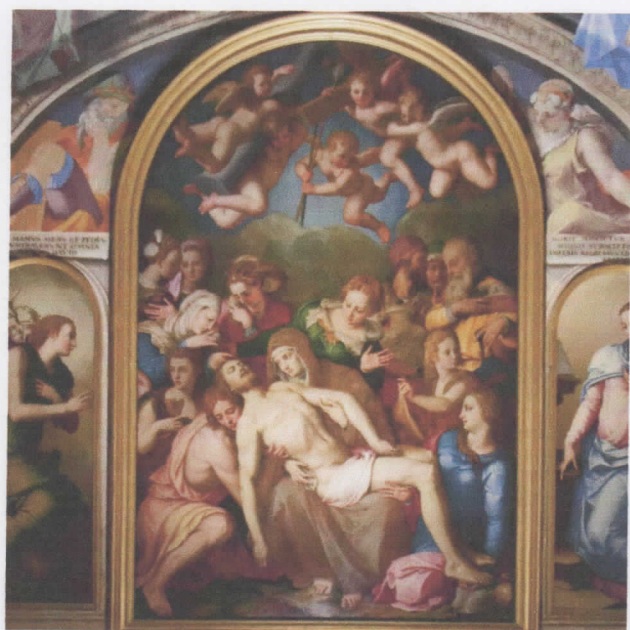


Fig. 1. Bronzino, Agnolo. Deposition of Christ, oil on panel, date.

